

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 180848
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011

DRAFTED BY:ARA/CEN:LPFEIFLE

APPROVED BY:ARA/CEN:WMATTHEWS

S/S:MVKENNEDY

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R 180306Z JUL 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA 2917

S E C R E T STATE 180848

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT BELIZE 706 ACTION SECSTATE JULY 14.

QUOTE: S E C R E T BELIZE 706

EXDIS

DEPT PASS GUATEMALA CITY AS DESIRABLE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, BH, GT, US

SUBJECT: GUATEMALAN TERRORISTS UPDATE

1. THINGS MAY BE EASING SLIGHTLY OR MY FRIEND MAY BE GETTING A BIT TIRED FROM HIS NIGHTLY TRIPS TO THE CAMP. EVENING OF JULY 11, I MET WITH HIM. HE HAD COME BACK FROM GUATEMALA ABOUT 1300 HOURS THAT DAY. I CAN PRETTY MUCH SUBSTANTIATE THAT SINCE I WAS WITHIN A FEW MILES OF BORDER AT 1130 HOURS BUYING MEAT FROM LOCAL FARMER AND SAW HIS VAN EN ROUTE FROM BORDER TO BELIZE CITY.

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2. IN OUR MEETING, HE PASSED ON FOLLOWING. GROUP APPEARS TO BE ADHERENTS OF CHEMITA WHO WELL KNOWN IN GUATEMALA. SOURCE SAYS THEY ARE "NOT YOUNG BUT IN THEIR MID FORTIES" FOR MOST PART. HE SAYS THEY ARE DEDICATED AND SERIOUS, STRONGLY ANTI-AMERICAN BECAUSE OF OUR SUPPORT FOR MILITARY REGIMES. ALSO, ANTI-U.S. BUSINESS. HE AGAIN ESTIMATED GROUP SIZE AT ABOUT 100. ANOTHER NAME SOURCE HEARD MENTIONED WAS THAT OF

JOSE NASCENCIO ALES, SAID BE A SALVADORAN.

3. AN INTERESTING TWIST IN ALL THIS WAS THE APPEARANCE, IN AMANDALA, OF AN ARTICLE CALLING A CANADIAN PRIEST, FATHER DENNIS, "BOGUS" AND AN "UGLY DUCKLING" WITH NO CREDIBILITY WITH THE LOCAL CATHOLIC CHURCH. I TAXED HIM WITH ALL THIS AND HE SEEMED GENUINELY ANGRY AND UPSET. HE ASKED ABOUT EVAN X. HYDE, THE EDITOR OF THE PAPER. SOURCE SAID HE HAD NEVER HAD ANY CONTACT WITH PAPER OR ITS EDITOR WHO IS, OF COURSE, OCCASIONALLY A TAD OFF BASE IN HIS REPORTING.

4. NIGHT JULY 12, HE CAME BY BRIEFLY. SAID HE HAD SEEN HYDE, HAD THREATENED HIM WITH LEGAL ACTION AND GENERALLY CUT UP ROUGH. HYDE APOLOGIZED AND MY FRIEND SEEMS SATISFIED. HE SAID A MESSENGER HAD COME TO HIM FROM TERRORIST CAMP ASKING HIM TO COME AT ONCE. HE PLANNED TO LEAVE AFTER TALKING WITH ME. THIRTY MINUTES LATER, HIS VAN HAD DISAPPEARED FROM IN FRONT OF HOTEL WHERE HE STAYING. SOURCE PROMOSED ME A WRITTEN REPORT-I TOLD HIM WRITE IN FRENCH-ABOUT GROUP. HE ALSO SAID HE SUSPECTED THEY WERE GOING TO GIVE HIM A LIST OF DEMANDS THEY WANTED ACCEPTED PRIOR TO RELEASE OF DESERTER. I AGAIN REITERATED MY BELIEF WE DO NOT BARGAIN. SOURCE SAYS THIS MAKES IT CLEAR TO HIM AND I AGREE THAT GROUP IS FULLY AWARE HE DEALING WITH US GOVERNMENT REP. OF SOME SORT.

5. YESTERDAY AFTERNOON, I HAD PHONE CALL FROM SY ASKING IF
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I WANTED EXPECT TO COME HERE. OTHER THAN OFFERS OF VISITING EXPERTS, THERE HAS BEEN NO COMMENT FROM DEPT. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ASSESSMENT OR OBSERVATIONS YOU MAY HAVE COME UP WITH. WAS GLAD TO GET MESSAGE ON POSSIBILITIES FOR DESERTER WHICH I WILL PASS ON IF I CAN BUT OBVIOUSLY WOULD PREFER TELL HIM HERE IN BELIZE. IN MEAN WHILE, CAN SOME QUIET QUESTIONS BE PUT OUT IN SOURCE'S HOMETOWN TO ASCERTAIN HIS BONA FIDES?
NALLE UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TERRORISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE180848
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ARA/CEN:LPFEIFLE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780294-0188
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780745/aaaablym.tel
Line Count: 102
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 93dbb370-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1962755
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GUATEMALAN TERRORISTS UPDATE
TAGS: PINS, BH, GT, US
To: GUATEMALA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/93dbb370-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014